



Business Agenda by the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia October 9 and 10, 2003

Thursday, October 9



Morning session at Radisson SAS Daugava Hotel

- **Welcome** by AmCham President Raimond Slaidins, an American-Latvian attorney and founder of one of the most respected law firms in the country, Klavins & Slaidins, active in Riga for more than ten years.
- **Panel Discussion on EU Accession issues and prospects for American Business in Latvia**

Invited participants:

- **Karen Pilmanis**, Commerical Officer, US Embassy
- **Latvian Development Agency** (www.lida.gov.lv/eng) representative
- **Michael Bourke**, President of Rietumu Bank and AmCham Board Member
- **Andrew Rasbash**, head of EU Delegation in Latvia
- **Uve Zosars**, Tax Manager, KPMG Latvia, and AmCham Board Member
- **Leah Markowitz**, International Trade Specialist, Central and Eastern Europe Business Information Center

Question and answer session for participants

- **Presentation by Mark Draper**, Economic Officer of US Embassy, on political and economic forecast of Latvia.
- **Lunch at Radisson** with some of the founding members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia. The Chamber, and Latvia, have come along way since a small group of American investors established AmCham back in 1993. This entertaining account will show you just how far.

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Afternoon session

- **Breakout session by industry:** All visiting companies will be matched with Latvian and American companies working in the same field. This will include IT, wood products, textiles, manufacturing, transit – more to be added depending on attendants.
- **Conclusions from the breakout sessions:** one representative from each industry will summarize the discussions.



Early evening

- **Reception with US Ambassador** to Latvia Brian Carlson at the Ambassador's residence.

Dinner

- **Dinner in Riga's Old Town** followed by a Jazz music concert at the restaurant Kalku Varti.

- **Friday, October 10**

Morning session

- **Tour of Riga Port (www.rop.lv/english.htm) and Free Economic Zone:** considerable benefits are offered to companies and institutions registered within the territory of the Riga Port, the largest in the Baltic region. The visit will be accompanied by representatives of the Latvian Development Agency, US Embassy and American Chamber of Commerce.
- **Lunch** with guest speaker American-Latvian Dr. Arthur Lindemanis, active promoter of economic cooperation between Latvia and the US with over 20 years of experience as a consultant, entrepreneur and investor.

Afternoon session (location to be announced)

- **Political meetings** tentatively to include:
- **Latvian Deputy Prime Minister Ainars Slesers** and
- **Latvian Economics Minister Juris Lujans** to present their views on economic trends in Latvia;
- **Foreign Ministry Undersecretary of State Andris Teikmanis** to talk about the role of the Foreign Minister;
- **Juris Kanels, new Chairman of the Latvian Development Agency** to discuss the role of the Agency and how it can help investors work in Latvia.
- *Panelists from the previous day's discussions will also be on hand to answer questions.*

Evening

- **Gala Event and celebration of AmCham Latvia's ten year anniversary at the Latvian Society House (black tie/dark suit event).**